

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 4, No. 12

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

APRIL 1994 • FREE

"The child who needs love the most is often the child who is *most* unlovable." Jane Nelson

Emma Hendrickson

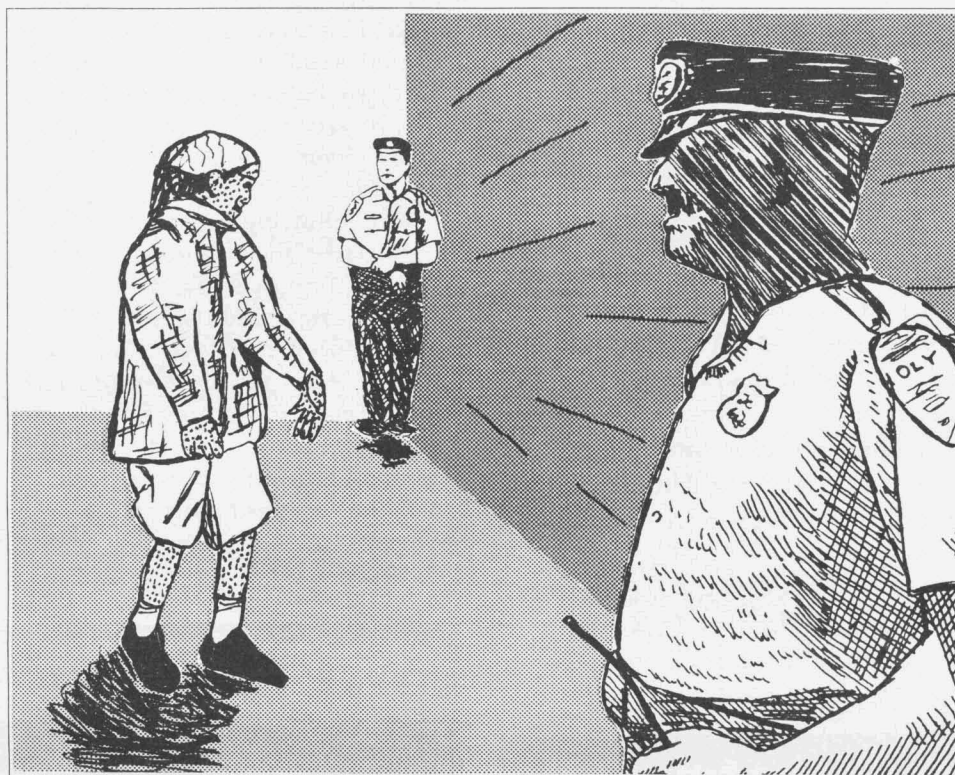
I have had, over the last six months, the pleasure of talking with many of our community's youth. They have been street kids, run-away kids, gang kids, and fortunate kids from nine to nineteen. And we have talked about living on the streets, dealing with cops, schools and social agencies, being understood and getting their needs met. I have watched them being thrown out of community buildings, harassed by cops and school administrators, maligned in public by city officials and politicians. I have witnessed them being told bad news, I have noticed them being respectful of adults who were not respectful of them, and I followed as they marched to City Hall. I have learned a lot, certainly not everything, but I know and understand a great deal more than I imagined existed. And, though it has not been my battle, I am tired and I am frustrated.

It has seemed to me that so many adults whom I have watched interact with these children, are determined to dismiss them. When the Community Center Drop-In Lobby closed, I listened to the Center's building manager drop the bomb to a group of juvenile patrons and repeat himself many times, I listened to police lecture kids as to why it was their fault the Drop-In Lobby was closing, and I listened to Mayor Jacobs tell the kids the City Council was sticking to its decision before the kids were able to speak. Is it insecurity or fear of being wrong? Were they afraid that people would notice that *The Olympian* had printed that the Center was severely understaffed (sometimes at a ratio of 100 to 1) to handle the number of children that patronized the Drop-in Lobby?

Cops

One topic that seems to be a common thread among some of the different groups of kids I have talked with is unprofessional conduct of police officers in the Lacey, Olympia and Thurston County law enforcement agencies. In response to kids' complaints I have begun hand-

Advocating For Children



ing out "bust" cards printed by the American Civil Liberties Union. They tell kids how to act appropriately and safely when dealing with police officers.

I have noticed a difference in reaction when I hand them to different kinds of kids. From White kids

searches for police protection." They claim all these things happen without being under arrest.

One young man told me of a time when he and his friends were pulled over. They were told to place their hands on the ceiling of the car. After they had done so, the police officer

"The only way to win the cooperation of teenagers is through mutual respect and equality in problem solving . . . When they are involved, they cooperate."

Jane Nelson

I often get blank, confused stares, but from street kids, kids of color and their white friends I receive immediate understanding and an enthusiastic "thank you". They complain of disrespect, threats, racial slurs, vulgar language, rough handling, and having guns frequently pulled on them. They claim that officers follow them from place to place, and that they are subject to multiple car searches in a single night. I hear stories of "handcuffing [kids] for police protection" and "car

approached them with his gun out. They then noticed his hands were shaking and immediately, out of fear complied to any request the officer made. They were not placed under arrest and the officer, before leaving, indicated that he had stopped them for having a cracked windshield.

Another student from a local high school told me about a situation where the campus security person was checking cars in the school parking lot during school hours when he

walked up to a county police car. An officer inside the patrol car pulled a gun and held it on him for a couple of minutes. According to the student, the campus security person was a well dressed, forty-year-old African-American man of high professional standards.

Even if these things happened just to gang kids, and they do not, gang kids, as any other kids, still have the same basic rights as adults. Citizens, regardless of age, deserve to be treated in a manner respectful of their human and civil rights. On a personal note, I have not been fearful or in danger by being around gang kids. I have found them to be respectful of me and other adults as long as they receive respect in return.

Curbside Photos

Police have also been taking pictures of teenagers on the streets to create individual gang files. Two teens approached me in downtown Olympia to tell me that an Olympia police officer asked if he could take their pictures. Without thinking much about it they said "yes". Afterwards they asked what he was going to do with the pictures and he told them he was going to use them to start their gang files. They were unable to convince him to change his intentions.

I have been hearing stories from Lacey area kids that the police there have not been so polite. They tell me that Lacey police do not generally ask for permission. They not only take pictures of the face, but of tattoos on various parts of the body: hands, arms, torso, back of the neck.

A young adult man to whom I spoke last fall shared a story of what kids are going through in this community. He had been in the gangs in high school and after a serious injury had decided he needed to get out. The police wouldn't believe him and continued to hound him, making things as difficult as possible. Later, when attending a workshop on gangs by a local police department, he looked up at the slide show to see his face on the screen. There was a blue line across his eyes, but if

(Continued on back page.)

U.F.W.W.S.
Alternative
Wine List

Page 3

Marable -
The War
Against
Black Youth

Page 4

Homeless News
and Views

Page 5-8

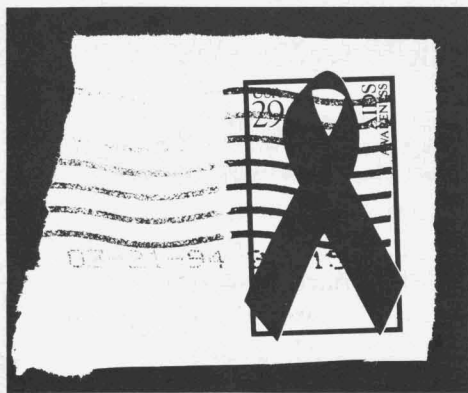
Caravan
to
Chiapas

Page 9

Who are
Labor Party
Advocates?

Page 11

Letters



Damn Good Jerome

Dear WIP:

Hey! As usual, another damn good edition of Works In Progress. I am writing in particular to express my delight in having read Jerome Johnson's killer, kick-in-the-butt article *The Value of Star Trek*. It is worthy of exposure in any national publication (*Utne Reader*? *New Yorker*? *Harpers*? *Multiethnic Education*? *Creative Classroom*? *Atlantic Monthly*?) Hell, I don't know, but a damn good piece of writing nonetheless.

Love, James S. Wellings

P.S. Damn good!

Toward Solutions

Dear Editor:

The Thurston Council on Cultural Diversity and Human Rights is strongly concerned about homeless citizens in crisis. We urge all citizens to join together and show compassion for our fellow citizens. All communities must be involved, together, striving to meet this challenge.

The challenge is two-fold: 1) To better understand the needs of homeless citizens; and 2) To create short and long term goals which includes homeless citizens' participation.

We acknowledge and appreciate all individuals and groups who have worked toward solutions to the homeless plight in our community.

The council encourages you to be a part of the solution.

To better understand the homeless condition we will hold our next monthly meeting at Bread & Roses.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Higgins, Jr., Chairman
Thurston Council on Cultural
Diversity and Human Rights

Thurston County's 14th Annual CROP Walk and Rally

One of the nation's largest fundraisers to help fight hunger is the Thurston County CROP Walk/10k scheduled for Sunday, May 1.

Each year, hundreds of CROP volunteers walk and run a designated course, starting this year at the State Capitol building, to raise money for local hunger relief organizations. Last year about 450 walkers raised \$27,092 through pledges from friends and neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer in this year's CROP 10k please contact Thurston County's Recruitment Chair, Mary Moore, 438-9767.

Since 1981, Thurston County CROP has raised \$454,899 to help fight hunger. One quarter of the money has stayed in the community and has helped fund hunger relief programs at Thurston County Food Bank, Senior Nutrition Program, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, and Bread and Roses. The rest of the money has been distributed to help support hunger relief efforts around the world.

Over 1800 events are sponsored by CROP around the country and is affiliated with Church World Services and with Associated Ministries locally. Approximately 17 percent of the funds go toward administrative costs, while 83 percent goes directly to the programs that help people in need.

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Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Jerome Johnson	Dave Campbell
Zachary D. Lyons	Evelyn Montague
Marvin Saillard	Teresa Jennings
Pat Tassoni	Chris Russo
Greg Hohnholt	Sylvia Smith
Marie Smith	Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission
deadline is

Wednesday, April 20
Also on that day, there will
be a meeting at SPEECH
(218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm.
Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Wednesday, April 27
7pm at Oly Library

For advertising info
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Dave Campbell
at 352-6132

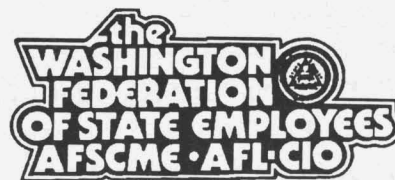
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"Adults must take the leadership role by using techniques that inspire a positive atmosphere for winning children over rather than winning over children."

— Jane Nelson



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Chateau Ste. Michelle Boycott Update

Teresa Poor

From March 2 through March 6, Vancouver, B.C. held its 16th Annual International Wine Festival which was entitled "A Celebration of the Vine." On Saturday, March 5, over 40 farm workers, and farm worker advocates attended two festival events in order to protest the participation of UST (U.S. Tobacco) owned Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia Crest wineries.

In 1987, 13 farm workers at a Chateau Ste. Michelle vineyard were fired for objecting to an arbitrary

of the antilabor actions taken by Chateau Ste. Michelle/Columbia Crest.

For the most part, people were receptive and supportive of the information given to them about the struggle to gain the right for democratic union elections and union representation at U.S. Tobacco owned Chateau Ste. Michelle/Columbia Crest wineries. The festival goers were asked to boycott the wines owned by UST in order to monetarily force Chateau Ste. Michelle/Columbia Crest wineries to recognize workers' rights to organize.

Later that night, at 6:00 PM, the

...On April 15, the United Farm of Washington State and the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee will be present at the Chateau in Woodinville at 10:30 AM.

wage reduction, the actions of an abusive foreman, and dangerous working conditions like exposure to toxic pesticides. Shortly following this illegal discharge, the majority of workers at this vineyard signed authorization cards with the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). Because the UST owned Chateau Ste. Michelle refuses to recognize the basic human right to organize, the farm workers' and the United Farm Workers of Washington State have been forced to call for the boycott of UST owned wines.

For these reasons, farm workers and supporters traveled to Vancouver, B.C. in order to reveal "the vines untold story."

During the "Lunch for All Seasons" event, which was held at the Seasons In the Park Restaurant and featured wines mainly from B.C., Washington, and California, farm workers, community members, and labor activists fanned out along the side walks and in front of the restaurant in order to inform festival goers

picket group moved to the International Festival Tasting event at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center. Here, also, the reception was either neutral or positive and the picketers were much louder and more boisterous. Basically, we all left knowing that Allen Shoup, CEO of Chateau Ste. Michelle, heard the message that farm workers want the rights to democratically choose union representation.

Furthermore, on March 25 and April 15, the United Farm of Washington State and the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee will be present at the Chateau in Woodinville at 10:30 AM. Our presence has been called because, in an unprecedented move, Allen Shoup and the winery have invited the farm workers to a luncheon at the Chateau. Who knows what will happen?

For more information on the restaurant campaign and/or the event at the winery in Woodinville, please contact Teresa at 352-8158 or Sheila at 352-2153. ♦

UFWWS Alternative Washington Wine List

The price and quality of the following wines are roughly equivalent to or better than the Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Crest, and Snoqualmie wines listed here in each grape varietal.

Chateau Ste. Michelle	Alternative
Whites	
Chardonnay	Barnard Griffin Columbia-Woodburn Cuvee Covey Run-Reserve Kiona-Barrel Fermented Waterbrook
Johannisburg Reisling	Hogue Cellars Covey Run
Sauvignon Blanc	Barnard Griffin-Fume Blanc Chinook Covey Run Hogue Cellars-Fume Blanc Waterbrook
Semillon	Hogue Cellars Columbia
Domaine Ste Michelle (Sparkling)	Hogue Cellars-Brut
Reds	
Cabernet Sauvignon	Barnard Griffin Hogue Cellars Kiona Waterbrook
Merlot	Hogue Cellars Latah Creek Waterbrook
Pinot Noir	Columbia-Woodburne
Columbia Crest Snoqualmie	Alternative
Whites	
Chardonnay	Covey Run Hogue Cellars Paul Thomas
Johannisburg Reisling	Hogue Cellars Covey Run Staton Hills
Sauvignon Blanc	Arbor Crest Covey Run Hogue Cellars-Fume Blanc Waterbrook
Semillon	Hogue Cellars
Reds	
Cabernet Sauvignon	Arbor Crest Hedges-Cabernet/Merlot Hogue Cellars Kiona Waterbrook
Merlot	Hedges-Cabernet/Merlot Hogue Cellars Latah Creek
Boycott U.S. Tobacco-owned Wines Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Crest, Farron Ridge, Snoqualmie, Saddle Mountain, Allison Combs	

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Sally Fingerett

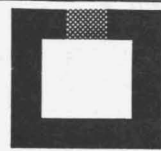
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Along the Color Line

The War Against Black Youth

Dr. Manning Marable

The most tragic victims of institutional racism are African-American children and young adults. Although we measure the impact of poverty, unemployment, and economic exploitation upon the family and community, we should focus our attention more specifically to the social devastation among our young people. Because in terms of education, health care, the criminal justice system and other criteria, what is happening in our cities is

estimated 70,500 children use drugs. Each day, 35 babies are born at low birthrates, and four babies die before their first birthday. Over 160,000 children, mostly black and Latino, have no Health insurance. Since 1987, TB cases in New York City have doubled. And today, AIDS is the leading cause of death in New York City for children under the age of five.

In recent years, there has been a profound change in the number of African-American children and young adults in New York who live with both parents. In 1979, 82 percent of the children under the age of

The war against black youth is strikingly apparent within the criminal justice system. In central Harlem alone, 2500 young people were arrested in 1992.

Ninety-five percent of those in jail in New York City are Latinos and Blacks. Who is this prison population? Ninety percent do not have a high school diploma; more than one-half have under a sixth-grade level of educational ability. About two-thirds of all young black people who are in jail awaiting trial, at an average cost of \$150 per day. The average pre-trial detention in New York City is fifty days—costing \$7,900 per prisoner. Instead of spending tens of millions of dollars warehousing black youth, we should spend that money educating and training them to be productive human beings.

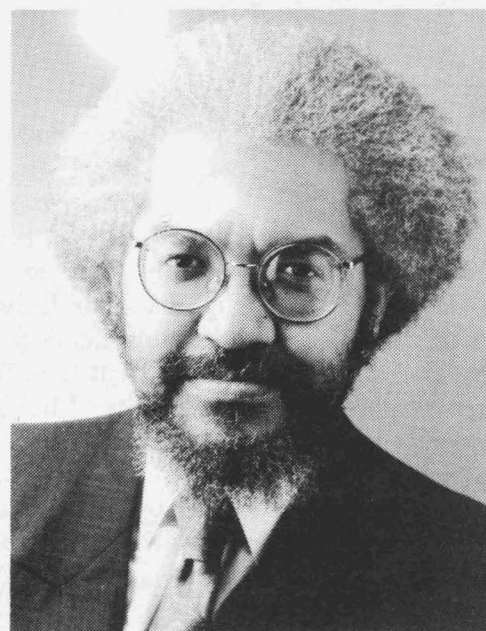
In the area of housing and homelessness: there are about 90,000 homeless people in New York City today. On a typical evening, 24,000 people, including 9,700 children, will sleep in a city-run shelter. About 90 percent of the homeless are black and Latino. In a five year period, about one out of twelve black children in New York will live in a homeless shelter.

The war against black children is most clearly demonstrated in education. New York City has 37 percent of the state's children in its public schools, but the city receives only 34 percent of the state aid. That

shortfall amounts to an underfunding to the public schools each year by \$400 million. In the suburbs of New York, the average suburban school spends \$9,236 per pupil; New York City spends \$6,325 per pupil, nearly three thousand dollars less per child. Statewide, the average student per teacher ratio is 14.5 per one; in New York City's public schools, the ratio is 16.7 per one.

The basic factor which underscores the dynamics of oppression for black children and youth is economics. Between 1980 and 1992, New York City lost 87,000 private sector jobs. During the same years, the number of African-Americans living below the poverty level in the city grew from 520,000 to 664,000 people. The average black family in the city earns \$24,000 annually, compared to more than \$40,000 per year for whites. Black men have unemployment rates of 13 percent, compared to under 6 percent for white males. As the economic situation for black households declines, the status of our children and young people also deteriorates.

At Columbia University's Institute for Research in African-American Studies, we are planning a major national conference, to be held in April, 1995, on the theme: "The Crisis of Black Youth." The greatest challenge for African-American leadership and organizations throughout the country is finding solutions to reverse the war against our young people. Our children are the future of the black community.



In a five year period, about one out of twelve black children in New York will live in a homeless shelter.

nothing short of a war against black youth.

For example, let us examine the statistical evidence provided by New York City and New York state. In the area of health care, six out of ten preschool children in New York City are not immunized. There are currently only 96 nurses for six hundred elementary schools in the city; nurses no longer regularly visit middle schools and high schools. Every day in New York City, an

six lived in households headed by one or both of their parents. By 1989, that percentage had dropped to 69 percent. The number and proportion of children under the age of six who live in married couple families has also declined sharply, from 38 percent in 1979 down to 31 percent in 1989. This means that thousands of our children are being raised increasingly by their grandparents, or by individuals who are not related to them at all.

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HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 5

April 1994

"A THOUGHT FOR TODAY..."

by Anonymous

One of the outgrowths of the encampment at Sylvester Park has been an outbreak of highly emotionally-charged (and often anonymous) opinions deriding those seeking shelter there. Local politicians and service providers, especially those on the Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF) would have us believe that these opinions represent a heretofore "silent majority". District 3 Commissioner Dick Nichols and Mayor Bob Jacobs, in particular, are explicit about citing the numerous phone calls they have received that echo their (and evidently the Task Force's) sentiments. Accordingly, Task Force members have insisted that the HSCTF proposal, which reinstates the recently-expanded Salvation Army as the primary shelter provider for Thurston County, meets the needs of their constituencies.

The anonymous memo below is a case in point. Mayor Bob Jacobs, who introduced the memo as a "reality check," xeroxed copies, and handed them out to those in attendance at the second emergency Department of Community Development meeting held on Wednesday, March 9th.

A thought for today...

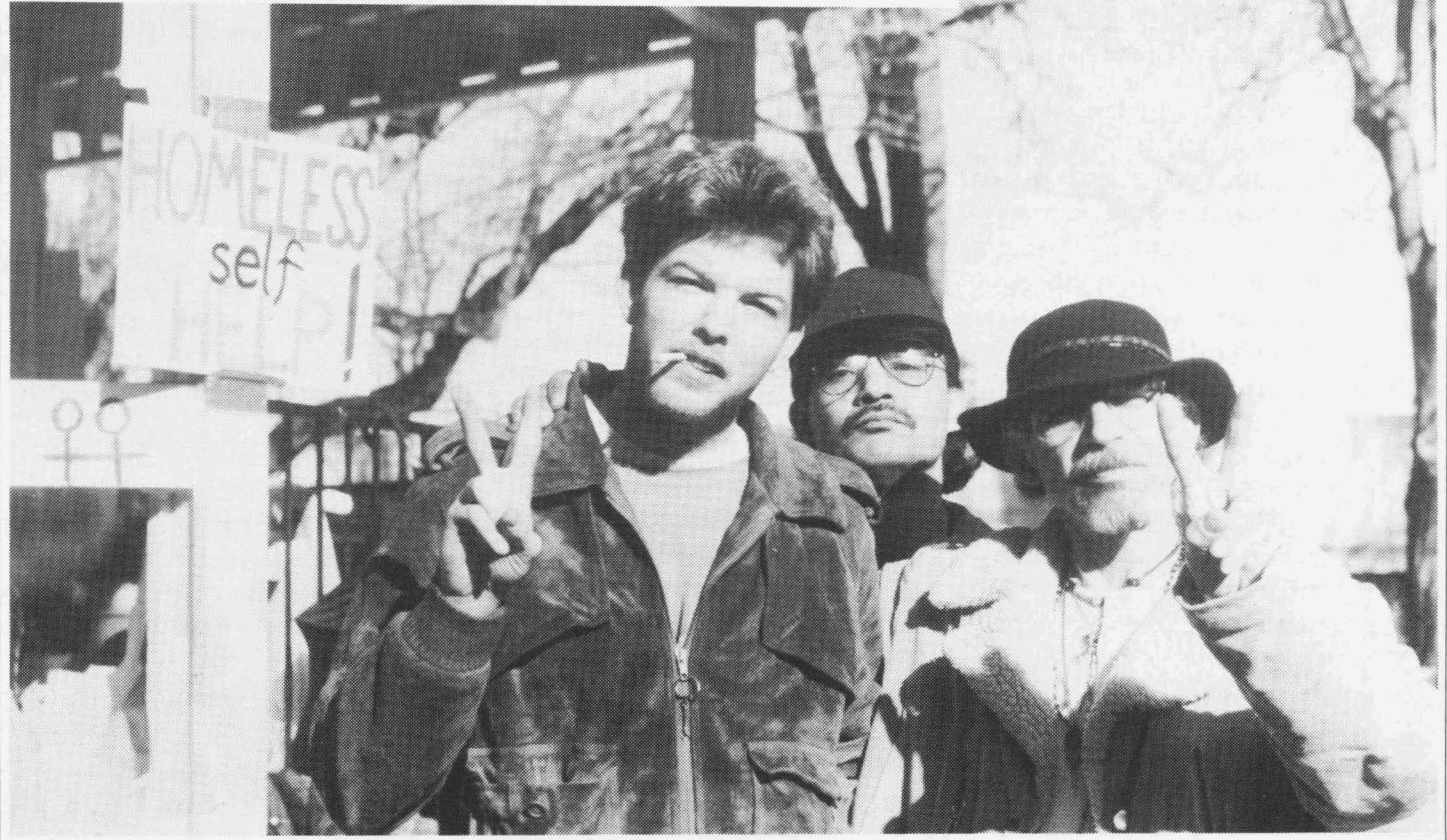
Ask yourself this question - Why are you not homeless? The answer is likely that you are taking responsibility for yourself.

Also ask "Why is the state supporting and allowing the encampment at Sylvester Park, on state-owned land?" The average tax-paying resident in this community would not be accorded these privileges.

Are there more than ten persons from Thurston County, other than students from The Evergreen State College, who comprise the "homeless" presently residing at Sylvester Park?

Would it not seem that these individuals encamped at Sylvester Park should also seek a hand-up to help themselves become independent, rather than idly seeking a hand out which meets their requirements - i.e. limited rules, controls, and accountability?

It seems the empty beds at the Salvation Army, a community hand-up with minimal requirements, are just too much for the persons who call themselves "homeless". Isn't it time we inform these 'homeless' to "Get a Life" somewhere else? ♦



Rick Hoonan

Homeless American Gothic -T.J., Dan, and Jerry stand tall at the Sylvester Park encampment. (Here's a "reality check" for you mayor: these guys are *not* Evergreen students!)

...STARRING BOB JACOBS, THE HOMELESS TASK FORCE, THE OLYMPIAN'S EDITORIAL BOARD AND A C.A.S.T. OF THOUSANDS

by Another Anonymous Citizen

Here's a follow up to Bob Jacobs' "reality check". How's this reality? The "Thought for Today" memo you just finished reading is really a movie, and the stars have been rehearsing their parts even more diligently since Governor Lowry and the DCD decided to become the executive producers of Olympia's ongoing homeless melodrama. Having already witnessed the Task Force's eight weekly rehearsals, and having become an "extra" myself in the process of reporting on them at length in the last issue of HN&V (Oops! Have I revealed my identity?), I felt obliged to provide our community with a cautionary production report.

As reported in the March 12th *Olympian*, a new anonymous consortium of business people calling themselves the Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth (C.A.S.T.) began organizing to "oppose state attempts to open an additional homeless shelter in the Olympia area". The article failed to note, however, that this disreputable 'Truth' had already been succinctly summarized by another *incognosci*; whose "A Thought for Today," appears above. This 'Truth,' frightening though it may

be, is quickly gaining a reputable supporting C.A.S.T. of characters, among them Mayor Bob Jacobs (the sponsor of "A Thought for Today"), Mike Oakland and the editorial board of the *Olympian*, and those rising stars of the soon-to-be-sequeled Homeless Services Community Task Force, Dick Nichols and his trusty sidekick on the Lacey City Council, Bill "Provide a final solution to the [homeless] problem" Bush.

So which C.A.S.T. is which? It seems to me that there are two casts of characters in this drama, the anonymous C.A.S.T., and a not-so-anonymous (and unafraid) cast motivated to ensure that the anonymous C.A.S.T.'s 'Truth' receives all the public attention it so justly deserves. Unless the confusion between these two CASTs can be cleared up, the success of their homeless production, now 18 months in the making, seems doomed to failure. If these two casts could, however, incorporate their forces by continuing to keep Olympia's homeless players "off-off-Broadway" (or, in this instance, off-off-Capitol Way), they could create a mega-hit that will easily outdistance the eight week run of the Task Force.

I feel compelled to make this suggestion because the public

relations acumen of C.A.S.T. is so obviously out of touch with the times. Why else would they require so much high-powered assistance in getting their "Truth" popularized? For example, consider this group's name. To be sure, I applaud the bold honesty of C.A.S.T.'s sobriquet. They are 'Citizens' (unlike Olympia's homeless), and they are 'Afraid to Speak the Truth' (even though, as some might argue, this C.A.S.T. of characters can pass on their 'Truth' through press releases and editorial requests to *The Olympian*, not to mention memos to the Mayor). Unfortunately, however, their acronym lends itself to lots of potentially derisive comments about CASTe systems, dieCAST ideologies, and "Letting those without sin CAST the first stone" We don't want to give all those other "citizens" (small 'c')—the ones who are crazy enough to insist that shelter for *all* is a basic human right, the ones who would like to see this smash, eighteen month, South Sound sleeper actually *end*—any opportunity to confound Us "real Citizens" with their suggestions about what the homeless them-

(Continued next page)

selves need to become like *Us* (i.e. registered voters with homes).

Judging from the extent of the protest in Sylvester Park, this competition from another, often unheard 'truth' (small 't') should not to be taken lightly. It would be better if our community's veteran CAST, those with more experience with this particular brand of 'Truth,' be given *carte blanche* if "A Thought for Today" is to follow the standard set by other, cities across our great nation.

Consider, for example, *The Olympian*'s recent contributions to the cause. The supporting C.A.S.T. of this newspaper's editorial board exemplified this standard expertly, with such gems as "Task Force on track" (March 6th) and "State should butt out" (March 14th). These editorials contained the type of 'Truth' (e.g. bold inaccuracies about the Task Force's success, liberal use of classic reactionary phrases like "milk the system" and "thumbing their noses"; sure to be Spoken by bigger, less Afraid editorial boards and private Citizens. Never mind that fact that not one of these board members actually attended the Task Force meetings, never mind the fact that not one of them bothered to talk to any of the campers at Sylvester Park (or any homeless people for that matter), never mind the outright falsifications that Mike Oakland and Co. made in these editorials—hey, these Citizens ain't afraid to Speak the Truth *the way they see it!!* Personally, as a fellow wordsmith, I stand in humble awe of their inspiring professionalism.

If this isn't enough 'Truth' to convince the members of C.A.S.T. let the old pros ensure that a new, user-friendly, effective, cost efficient, homeless-managed shelter doesn't get built, rest assured that Task Force chairman Dick Nichols and stylin' Bill Bush have the star quality to make "A Thought for Today" the two year plus blockbuster it deserves to become. Dick Nichols, self-described "point man" of the Task

Force, certainly isn't Afraid to Speak the Truth, even if it means telling the homeless to "shut up and let the Task Force do its work" once in a while. And why shouldn't he? As he has so repeatedly reminded Us, Dick didn't *have* to volunteer for this Task Force—he *wanted* to represent the Citizenry of Thurston County, *especially those Afraid to Speak the Truth*. These Citizens believe the same thing that Dick does, that "existing facilities and programs are adequate to meet the needs of Olympia's homeless." Why else would the Task Force spend eight weeks reinstating the Salvation Army as Thurston County's primary service provider? Hey, you guys really need to get together, this is some heavy synchronicity going on here—it's more than 'Truth,' it's what only Bob Jacobs, the fearless *auteur* of "A Thought for Today," could call a "reality check".

Speaking of checks, We Citizens would be remiss if we neglected to remind C.A.S.T. of the \$10,000 check contributed by Dick Nichols' stalwart colleague, table thumpin' Bill Bush. Up until the



L to R: John Walsh, Bill Bush, and a frustrated Dick Nichols.

eighth and final week of the Task Force, ol' Bill had Spoken *Our* kind of Truth loud and clear, limiting his city's contribution to a "final homeless solution" to turning over the Lacey Community Center to Olympia's homeless men on Sunday nights. In the eleventh hour, though, Lacey came through with the remaining

10K needed to fund the Task Force's still-as-yet undetermined "Specialty Shelter". Despite making this perhaps regrettable, but necessary concession, it should be noted that Big Bill pounded the table and said "NO!" to letting the homeless run the Federal Building—an act of courage that should not go unnoticed by those Citizens still Afraid to Speak the Truth.

Well, what else can I say to persuade you C.A.S.T. members? I've watched this drama unfold from both sides of the aisle, as it were, and with the state now taking over production chores, there's bound to be a big "FIN" appearing on the horizon sooner or later. Better get your organization the kind of experienced ensemble acting that "A Thought for Today" needs to become boffo box office material. You don't have to look any further than your own back yard—you know the one I mean, don't you? We *can* keep Them out of our back yard—permanently; *but only if we stay committed to fear and the preservation of Our Truth at the expense of the future lives of the homeless*. The conclusion to this chart-buster is up to you. ♦

A POSTSCRIPT FOR EDWARD R. BALES

By Greg Hohnholt

Edward Bales was a man who occupied a brief, yet catalyzing moment in the lives of our homeless community. A quiet, mild-mannered, boy-like man in his mid-thirties, Ed arrived in Olympia some time in late January or early February, only to develop gangrene in both legs about two weeks later. Evidently, he had walked from his usual territory of Tacoma, gotten frostbitten along the way, and, not knowing or realizing the seriousness of his condition, let his medical condition worsen until amputation below the knees became his only option.

I visited Edward Bales on three separate occasions soon after his operation. During my last visit early last month, he told me he was leaving for Missouri to live with his step-parents.

Ask anybody who talked to Ed Bales and they'll probably tell you the one thing that stuck with them was his calm, almost apologetic manner. He didn't want to be a trouble to anyone, and seemed to feel that being poor put him in a state of constant wariness, his most basic biological needs regularly conflicting with his psychological desire to veil himself in an aura of invisibility. This desire was powerful, and consequently, many of the Bread & Roses regulars respected Ed Bales' tacit wishes and left him alone as he went about the wearying business of day-to-day survival.

With the ignoble benefit of hindsight, it's not surprising that many who came in contact with Ed Bales now feel guilty about defer-

ring to these wishes. "I should have...." or "I blame myself..." are the predictable sentiments expressed. But upon deeper examination, how could the story of Ed Bales have ended in any other way but tragedy? Homelessness teaches you to respect another person's right to deal with their survival by whatever means appropriate, provided you keep it in your own space. Ed Bales adhered to the code better than most, and, his personality being disposed to invisibility by inclination, deferred his legs to an almost pathetic sense of dignity. He let the constant shaking and the fever get steadily worse to ensure that no one, homeless or otherwise, would have any excuse to judge him a bum looking for a handout.

It took Ed Bales' amputation to teach me these things. When I first visited him, he was pumped full of medications and couldn't even remember leaving Tacoma. Nevertheless, even with all the pain killers and amnesia, I could feel his defensive antenna searching me out, trying to discern if I posed some threat to his benign acceptance of his condition. Would I, a person with a home, judge him harshly for requiring so much free medical attention? He only let his guard down and began to trust me when I showed him a copy of the newspaper article written about him in February 25th *Olympian*. Ed smiled when he saw his name—it was if he was almost oblivious to losing his legs—and the innocence contained in that smile

makes me genuinely wonder if Ed is perhaps better living the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

The only conclusion I can draw is this: let's face it; Ed is relieved to have lost his legs, maybe even happy. He thinks that his struggle to escape from the failure to live up to the standards of mainstream society is over. He thinks that he'll no longer have to worry about defending his dignity from the expectations of those who have sacrificed their humanity for a middle-class Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. (And no, you're right, Ed's honeymoon won't last, but losing his legs might be worth a year of relief.)

You or I can't change this tragedy, but we *can* make sure it never happens again. When you hear angry, scared people ranting about how the homeless are "milking the system," or how they need to "get a life somewhere else," remind them of the tragedy that is Edward Bales. Perhaps they'll look deeper, past their shallow angst. Perhaps they'll begin to see that their wrath toward the poor originates not from a righteous sense of injustice, but from seeing in stark relief what they are running from by keeping up appearances. How many people have to be maimed before we all garner the moral courage and compassion to assess the alienation that *each and every-one of us submits to daily in order to simply live*? We can do better, folks. We really can.

Goodbye, Ed. Thanks for touching us. ♦



Many runaway and homeless youth in Olympia have no place to sleep tonight. You can help today by volunteering to be a Shelter Parent. As a Volunteer Shelter Parent, you would offer temporary help to these youth, ages 11 through 17, and receive professional help and support from Shelter Project Staff.

If you can help with the growing problem of youth homelessness in our community, please call Susan Moore at 943-0780.

WHY I'M TAKING DIRECT ACTION

by Martin Lee

Martin is an Evergreen student and homeless advocate who has been very active in keeping the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEME) at the forefront of local housing and shelter issues. He presented the following "press release" a few days prior to the March 1st protest at the Federal Building, and the subsequent encampment at Sylvester Park, but to my knowledge, it was given scarce attention. It is printed here now for its historical significance.

In order to understand the magnitude of this issue, one must examine the singular difference between a homeless person and a housed person: adequate shelter. Homeless people struggle daily with the same obstacles that inflict us all. Homelessness is a magnified view of society as a whole. In the homeless community, men, women, and children struggle together in order to survive. Some homeless are in need of mental health care, alcohol/drug treatment, counseling, and employment. The very same can be said of the housed community, with the singular separation being adequate shelter.

Homeless people are **not** the scourge of society. Homeless people are **not** separate from society. Homeless people are **not safe** from society. The myths surrounding the homeless and homeless issues has been allowed to perpetuate and prosper. Society continues to promote and justify this oppression. The message being sent is that personal gain overrides human compassion. Children are being given the understanding that it is acceptable to allow this sort of oppression and, subsequently, become pawns in the game. What are we teaching our children? It is unacceptable to allow this sort of behavior.

Understanding #1

Why direct action?

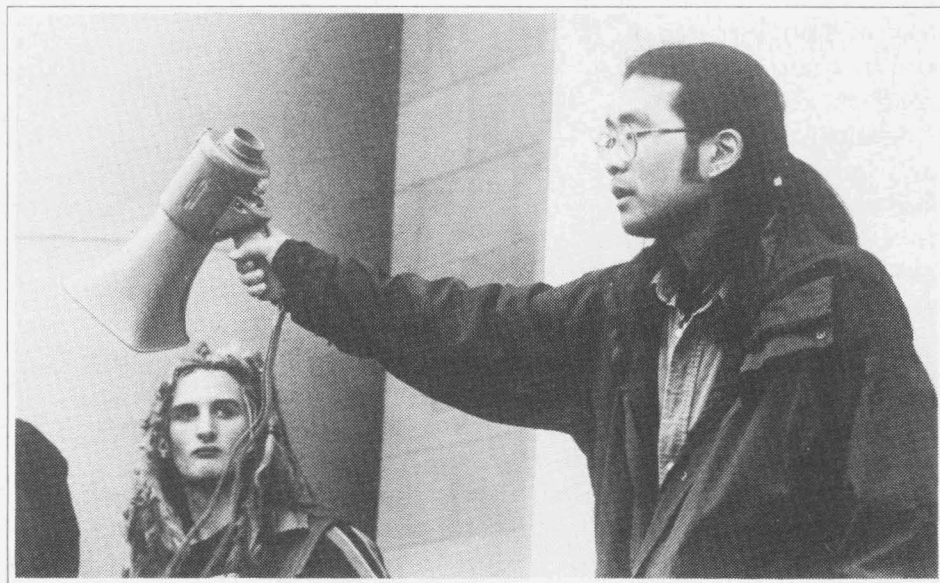
On Tuesday, February 22, 1994, an eight year old girl was waiting in the lunch line at the Bread and Roses Community Kitchen with her mother and younger sister. This child was telling her mother that she didn't like being there. Her mother gently explained to her that sometime they needed to come here to eat. The little girl was unsettled. The little girl felt ashamed. The little girl wanted to cry, but society says you don't cry in public, or in private, for that matter.

The little girl felt ashamed.

I wondered why she would feel ashamed for being hungry

and needing to eat. I wondered why she was made to feel that way.

Then I remembered being called a "Chink" by the kids in school when I was younger; later, by strangers. I remembered finding a charred cross in my family's front yard with KKK emblazoned on the snow. I



Martin Lee urges protestors to follow him to the Federal Building after the rally at the Rotunda on March 1st.

remembered being ashamed of my nationality. I remember being ashamed for being me.

I stopped wondering why this child was ashamed. I knew why.

I knew, and I didn't like what I had learned. I didn't feel ashamed anymore, I felt betrayed. Betrayed by myself, betrayed by my fellow persons, betrayed by my government. We the people allowed this to happen. We are presently allowing it to continue to happen.

I can no longer sit and watch this happen. This is unacceptable. This is sad. This is wrong.

I believe direct, conscious, nonviolent action needs to be taken. Children are dying on the streets. Friends are dying from AIDS. Mother Earth is deteriorating. Human rights have taken a subordinate role to capitalism. Homeless shelters are being run like businesses. Homeless shelters should provide people with shelter for humanitarian reasons, not for profit. Human beings are flesh and blood. Human beings have feelings. Human life is not a business venture.

For these reasons, I cannot allow my fellow brothers and sisters to die on the streets. I refuse. If that is a punishable crime, I respectfully confess guilt.

Understanding #2

Why direct action?

In a National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) report released February 18 of this year, the Stuart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is said to have fallen short of

its potential. Andrew Cuomo, Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development of HUD, acknowledges the shortcomings of the McKinney Act in its present-day form. While the Clinton Administration is working to improve the program, Cuomo admits that one of the roadblocks in implementing the Act is that "it

deals with the political will of the localities."

The NLCHP report further states that of the 13,000 federal properties available through the McKinney Act since 1987, only 800 are being put to use. One of these 13,000 federal properties is located here in Olympia at 801 Capitol Way, commonly known as the Federal Building. It was listed as suitable for homeless use in the Federal Register on December 18th, 1992 (about six weeks after the opening of the First Baptist Church Temporary Men's Shelter). Interest in the property for this purpose was expressed solely by the Housing Authority of Thurston County (HATC) in a letter advised to Mr. Clark Van Epps, Director-Division of Health Facilities Planning, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on February 16th, 1993.

On April 15th, 1993, Chris Lowell, Executive Director of the HATC, provided additional, requested information to HHS; primarily pertaining to item 5: Propose program for Facility Requested. HATC's proposed program was the formation of a Family Support Center in order to provide more efficient cost-effective and accessible services to the homeless. The Family Support Center was to house not only HATC offices, but also office space for the Child Care Action Council, Community Care Clinic of St. Peter's Hospital, Community Mental Health Center, Puget Sound Legal Assistance Foundation, and Homes First!

In a November, 1993 phone conversation I had with Chris Lowell, the HATC was planning on renting this office space for

\$10.50 per square foot. The HATC itself was planning on establishing its new Federal Building location in late February or early March of 1994. At this time, Chris Lowell acknowledged that the quitclaim deed (in which the GSA renounced its rights to the Federal Building property and granted them to the HATC) had been received by the Housing Authority at no cost, in accordance with the McKinney Act.

Some three months later on February 11th, when the Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF) was searching for shelter alternatives to the soon-to-close First Baptist Church, the Federal Building was mentioned as a possible shelter site. Chris Lowell publicly stated that the HATC was still awaiting the quitclaim deed from HHS, and that the building would be utilized for its proposed Family Support Center. A week later at the next HSCTF meeting (Feb. 18th), Lowell was again approached about the Federal Building. This time, however, she was confronted with the following facts: (a) the HATC had possessed the quitclaim deed to the Federal Building since mid-September, 1993, (b) that the HATC had refused to sign the deed, thereby (c) forcing Kathleen Furey Martin of the HHS to void the deed in a letter dated February 2 to Chris Lowell. (In Ms. Martin's view, the deed had to be voided due to it not being "in the Government's best interest to allow an executed deed to remain unaccepted and unrecorded for this lengthy period of time.")

Chris Lowell responded to these facts by arguing that the time frame needed for the HATC to implement the Family Support Center was not acceptable to the Federal Government, and that the availability of tenants willing to rent office space for \$8.00-9.00 a square foot was limited. The facts show, however, that it was the HATC's unwillingness to cooperate with the HHS in a timely manner that led to the voiding of the deed. This is demonstrated by an earlier, December 23rd, 1993 letter written by Martin to Lowell after the HATC had held the Federal Building quitclaim deed for over three months:

"This is in reference to the quitclaim deed, dated September 8, 1993, which conveyed the above-referenced property [i.e. the Federal Building] to the HATC (grantee). This will also confirm Bob Ricks' (of the HATC) December 10 telephone conversation with Judy Breitman and Eula Samuel of this office concerning the grantee's failure to accept the deed. As discussed,

(Continued next page)

The Impoverished and HB2798

by Patricia Imani

It is not easy to "live" in poverty. It is not easy to explain to a child why there is no milk, or juice, or eggs in the fridge, or bread, or rice, in the cupboards. It is not easy to stand in food bank lines for bread which too often you must take from your child's hands because by the time the bread made it through the commercial food chain into her hands, it has often molded. It is not easy to hide your tears from your child, tears which come often in your struggle for the very hope of a just and equitable life for your family.

The impoverished are a product of our modern social and economic structures which serve to benefit the few, in quest for capital gain, while encouraging the exploitation and oppression of the many who serve as a means to the capitalists' end. Too often in our society the impoverished are treated as though, and made to believe that they are criminal, rather than victim to the crime of our modern socioeconomic system. The stereotypes which facilitate this belief

(Direct Action, cont.)

we cannot allow the grantee to continue with unlimited access to the property without the assumption of responsibility. Although Mr. Ricks indicated that he would be in touch with our office this week, we have heard nothing further.... If you do not intend to accept the deed within the above prescribed time frame, please return it immediately."

This little slice of history should give you some insight into why only 800 out of 13,000 federal properties are being put to homeless use under the McKinney Act. This is why the Clinton Administration is working to improve the Federal Surplus Program. This is what Andrew Cuomo of the HUD means when he says that the implementation of the McKinney Act is being curtailed by the "political will of the localities." This is who our antagonists are. This is where we need to take action where action is not being taken. This is where we need to just do it—NOW!

We take action against our antagonists to create a better society for our children and their children. We create this society consciously, through direct action. Necessity mandates action. The eminent danger to the homeless warrants change. The eminent danger warrants choice. We choose to act.

We choose nonviolent direct action. ♦

serve to regenerate not only the economic oppression of the impoverished, but the exploitation of us all.

Currently, the Washington State Legislature sent to our Governor a bill, HB2798, which if signed will enable the severe exploitation and oppression of some of Washington State's most impoverished people. In Washington single parent female headed families with young children show a poverty rate of 57.9%, and that rate increased anywhere from 60.8% to 78.9% if we consider the poverty rate suffered by families of color only. Many women and children who suffer from this poverty rate seek temporary help from their communities, in the form of public assistance, to help provide for the basic needs of their children as they strive to create a healthier life for their families.

HB2798 will take those families who suffer from temporary impoverishment and encourage their continued impoverishment by utilizing them as a cheap, and possible free, labor source. HB2798 mandate the legal exploitation of, primarily, impoverished women by limiting their rights to specific education and training which offers them a concrete means of escaping poverty, while ensuring their impoverishment by requiring their placement into primarily unskilled, pink-collar, poverty wage jobs. HB2798 also provides an open gate for the impoverished to be utilized as a free labor source, under the cloak of mandatory "unpaid job skills training."

Historically, the utilization of impoverished women as a cheap and free labor source is coupled with the lay-off of a more "demanding" labor force, "when profits [are] threatened by adverse international economic conditions, the growing irrationality of market allocations, and material scarcities reflecting reduced access to natural resources abroad" (*Regulating the Lives of Women*, M. Abramovitz.) The "welfare reform" bill sitting on Governor Mike's desk was designed not to empower the impoverished, but to encourage their exploitation for the benefit of elite capital gain.

I encourage you to call the governor's office at 753-6780 and ask for him to veto those sections of HB2798 "which limit the quality of educational and employment opportunities available to our state's impoverished families," or simply to "veto sections 6 and 9 of HB2798." Politically it will be beneficial if you ask him to veto those sections "because of technical problems within the bill." Your knowledge concerning the strengths and needs of all impoverished peoples will enable our unity and our empowerment. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS

• Throughout the Sylvester Park homeless encampment, the Labor Center at The Evergreen State College helped the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEME) organizers with ample suggestions and support. Dan Leahy, for example, a faculty at TESC, spent many hours on the phone lobbying to get the water and electricity at the park turned on. In addition, Tom Freeman of Local 443 wrote up a news release requesting the stewards of the local to ask union members to donate blankets, tents, and other necessities. These actions were a vital component in garnering state support from Governor Lowry and the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

Local 443 capped their support for SCHEME's membership on March 15th, by approving a resolution to donate \$500 to the SCHEME organization. Considering all the incendiary editorials written against the protesters in *The Olympian*, the passing of this resolution, on the eve of Tent City's voluntary evacuation, was especially timely and noteworthy.

• On Tuesday, March 15th, SCHEME made eleven demands on behalf of the homeless at Sylvester Park. The response from the Governor's office, made via Harry Thomas on Wednesday March 16th, was very encouraging and supportive. In brief, they stated that "No one should be homeless. The people of Washing-

ton State and its communities have the obligation and the power to see that everyone goes home. To choose less is unthinkable." They then went on to answer nine of SCHEME's demands specifically.

In general, SCHEME's demands focused on the issues of the homeless youth, while establishing permanent housing for all. They also addressed the possibility of civil rights violations; for example, discriminatory zoning practices by local jurisdictions which make it difficult to establish a self-managed shelter in Thurston County. SCHEME feels that if citizens are to become more fully participatory in a sustainable community, they require opportunities to help themselves, not simply "get plugged into the system".

In response, the state seriously addressed the issue of possible civil rights violations. They asserted that a variety of current state programs offer immediate assistance and resident-managed opportunities in housing for the homeless of all ages.

• A new **Oxford House** is opening up in Olympia on April 1st, 1994. There are openings available for 9 single men in recovery from substance abuse. The cost is \$230 per month including utilities. Contact **Myrna Brown at 923-5351** for further information ASAP. (Please note: There is a lavender Oxford House flyer hanging up around town with an invalid phone number. Please do not call 943-1746, call 923-5351.) ♦

Statement of Purpose

WiP's aim in publishing *Homeless News and Views* is threefold: (1) First and foremost, we wish to make some contribution to dispelling the narrow misconceptions about who the homeless are and how these *individuals* became homeless. We believe that this can best be accomplished by (2) granting homeless individuals a free, uncensored medium with which to tell their stories, voice their concerns, and exchange information. By doing so, (3) the homeless will hopefully become more in our community's imagination than a faceless mass of people without homes—perhaps we who *have* homes will begin to understand the importance of considering what the homeless have to offer the future of our community rather than by what they lack in the immediate present.

Homeless News and Views is seeking articles, poetry, photography, or artwork concerning homelessness. Homeless contributors are given top priority, but anyone wishing to make relevant submissions are urged to do so. All interested parties may contact the editor, Greg Hohnholt, at 943-5315. If you wish to be interviewed, require access to a word processor, or would like some assistance with getting your thoughts into print, please call to make arrangements to meet with Greg. Thank you!

NEXT MONTH IN HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS

As a part of our Spring quarter project in "Environment, Land and People" at The Evergreen State College, Emily Walton, Tristan Fields, and myself will be submitting articles to the May and June issues of *Homeless News and Views*. Our goal is to educate WiP's readers and ourselves about the many current issues concerning this growing social epidemic. To complete this project, we will be collecting homeless biographies and stories, and reporting on legislative issues, existing homeless programs' or organizations' information, and a selection of relevant current events.

We wish to thank *Works in Progress* for allowing us a voice, and we are excited about having the opportunity to provide a voice for those traditionally without. For any additional information or input into *Homeless News and Views*, please feel free to contact us at 866-6000 ext. 5017, or Greg Hohnholt at 943-5315.

Jennifer Minich, Emily Walton, and Tristan Fields

Caravan to Chiapas

**David Abeles
and Greg Bye**

A group has been formed in response to the recent uprising in the Mexican state of Chiapas. The Coalition in Solidarity with the Indigenous People of Chiapas is organizing to send a peace caravan to the Chiapas area this summer. One outcome of this effort is to, hopefully, coincide the caravan's arrival in Chiapas with the Mexican presidential elections on August 21.

The coalition, which is made up of individuals and groups from Indigenous, Chicano, student, labor, religious and other popular communities throughout the Pacific Northwest region, is driven by a spirit of solidarity towards the indigenous people and other communities in Mexico that are struggling for autonomy and social justice.

The brutal Mexican counter-insurgency during the first two weeks

of January uprooted tens of thousands of Chiapanecos from their homes and forced them into makeshift refugee camps. The coalition supports the peoples' efforts to reconstruct their lives and return to their homes.

The major goal of the caravan is to deliver children's clothes, wool and cotton fabrics, blankets and sweaters—especially wool ones—medicine and miscellaneous items. We ask the public to please contact

via 352-6342. In Seattle, the number is 322-7517.

The coalition is seeking financial contributions of any amount. Checks and donations may be sent to P.O. Box 20172, Seattle Washington 98102. The Olympia address is 409 Central Street Northeast, 98506. Checks should be made to the CSIPC (Coalition in Solidarity with the Indigenous People of Chiapas). Please indicate if the check is to be tax-deductible. The coalition is

One outcome of this effort is to, hopefully, coincide the caravan's arrival in Chiapas with the Mexican presidential elections on August 21.

the coalition if they can give any of the materials. There are vehicles available to pick up the donations. The local contact number in Olym-

non-profit with no paid staff. (All humanitarian aid will be given to the popular organizations in Chiapas which are involved in the struggles for autonomy and social justice.)

The current situation in Chiapas provides an opportunity for positive change for the Mexican people, who have suffered through years of dictatorships, starvation, and

Benefit Concert

Wed. April 13th
Thekla 8-mid

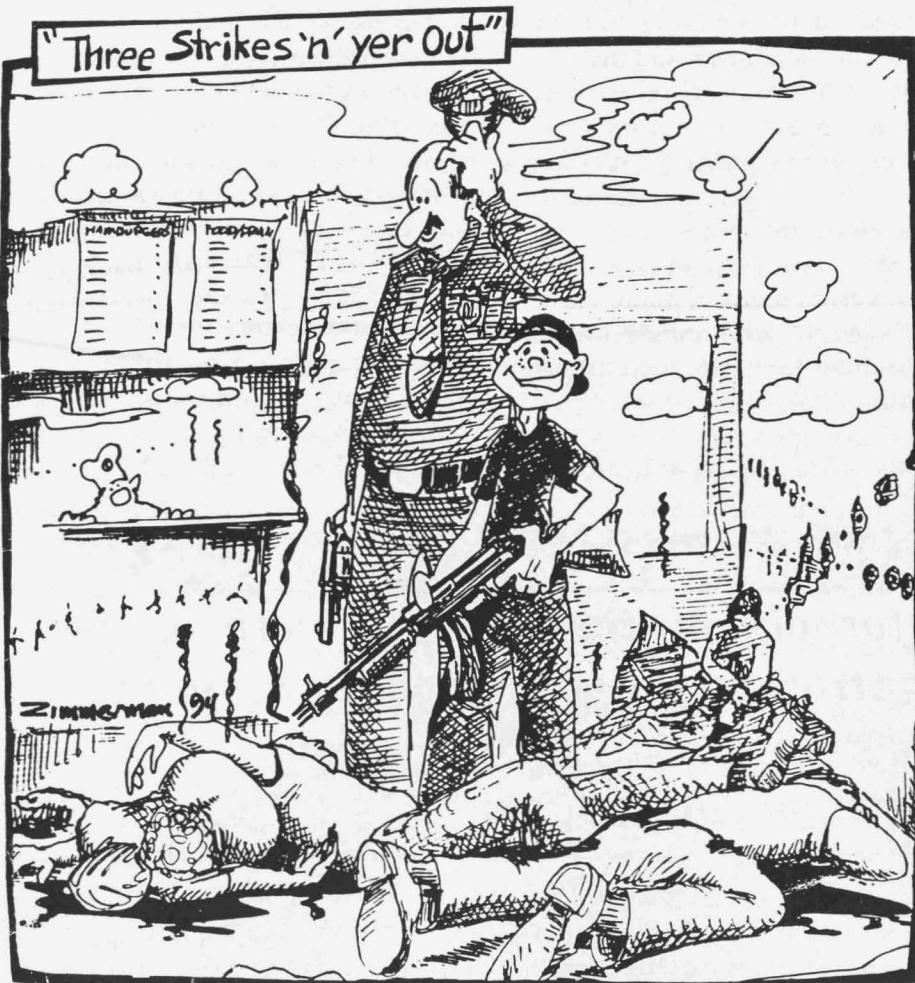
**ACME SKA CORPS
LIFE OF RILEY**

\$3 at the door

misery--the latest being the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA is perceived by Marcos, a spokesperson for the insurgents, as "a death sentence to the indigenous people of Mexico".

In response to the uprising the Mexican government has promised major reforms in the electoral process and in improvement of the lives of Indians. To ensure that these promises are not empty rhetoric, it is important that the international movement for peace and justice join in solidarity with the insurgents' cause. Besides humanitarian efforts, other ways of helping include the pressuring of U.S. elected officials; this would include letters, phone calls, and public demonstrations.

The coalition is actively seeking support and help in this project. We are in need of caravan riders, drivers, phone callers, public speakers, writers, trucks and cars. Meetings will be held on the 2nd, 16th, and the 30th of April, in the east room of the Olympia Timberline library, located at 313 8th avenue southeast from 2 to 4 P.M. ♦



"Geez kid two more strikes n' yer Out!"

1994 Ethnic Calendar Available

The 1994 version of Multi-Ethnic Mosaic of Thurston County" has been recently published by the Institute for International & Multi-Ethnic Relations and is now available for purchase.

Fully illustrated with photographs, the calendar features local citizens and organizations. Included: Olympia's Japanese sister city, Yashiro; Vietnamese Mutual Assistance Association; Nisqually Indian Tribe; Community Mental Health; Lithuanian Dancers; Immigrants from Mexico and Bangladesh and much more.

The calendar also includes four pages of community resources, the months of the year translated into twelve languages (two Native American) and over one hundred "trivia" questions regarding ethnic and international topics. There is also a dedication to Native American activist, Billy Frank, Jr., recipient of the Institute's annual Citizen Diplomacy Award.

The calendar is available now for \$12 and may be purchased by calling the Institute at 705-0615 or stopping by the office at 203 E. 4th, Suite 308.



The
Olympia
Food Co-op
second
location is
almost
here...

Come join our
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April Fool's Day Weekend
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
APRIL 1st 2nd & 3rd

Entertainment, Food, Door Prizes

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Good Will on Lunch Break

Jerome Johnson

On a cloudy Sunday afternoon in late February, I was walking into Evergreen's L4300. It was the day of the Purim celebration: a Jewish holiday commemorating the prevention of genocide in ancient Persia. As a kid growing up I'd read about Esther and how she defeated Hamann, but I didn't know about the holiday until recently; when Purim celebrations were held out at Evergreen. I liked the idea of the holiday, but the celebrations seemed to be oriented more toward kids than adults. Usually I'd walk over on my lunch break and check out the decor and vendors, especially the food vendors.

I have a co-worker who is of Jewish heritage, and she came to work directly from the celebration this year. She told me how nice it was this year and that I should go so I ambled in on my lunch break.

I sure am glad I took her advice.

The 4300 Lounge had been decorated with colored paper, and the tangy smell of grilling kebabs wafted in from the patio. The Mazeltones had come down from Seattle and were enthusiastically playing on stage. People were clapping and dancing in front of them. The lounge was full of game tables and vendor tables, cheerfully dressed in paper. Off to one side, some kids were having their faces painted. Everyone was laughing and talking and having a good time in general.

I went up to say hello to some friends of mine. I'd barely gotten it out of my mouth when the music started again, and suddenly I was in a circle dancing with them. Now, I've seen people do this dance on TV, but I had no idea how aerobic it is. Sometimes we'd change direction, and once we had a circle of people dancing *inside* of ours. I never did get the step quite right, but it sure was fun.

At last we took a break, applauding ourselves. As I looked around I realized that there were all kinds of people there, from all walks of life. And they were all having fun. The vibes were excellent.

I was still grooving on those vibes as I walked back to work. I was thinking about Louis Farrakhan and

the Nation of Islam. Some very hurtful and hateful language has come from them recently. That isn't new; phrases like "Jewish control of the media," "Jewish American Princess" and even worse are often used by columnists in *The Final Call*. A nationwide furor erupted over an especially virulent speech by Khalid Abdul Muhammad and Farrakhan's

pressure on me to denounce Farrakhan. Maybe that's because they know I despise him just like I despise all bigots; nationally, white gentile pundits who usually howl the loudest for other blacks to repudiate Farrakhan.

I came home from work that evening and saw on the news reports of Baruch Goldstein's carnage. In the following days my Jewish friends joined in the anger and sorrow for the victims. In the major

I'm hearing a lot about the "strained relations" between blacks and Jews, but relations between my friends and I are just fine. A lot of pundits are whining and speculating and accusing. Maybe they'd be better off doing what we do: respecting and honoring each other's culture. My friends and I understand that bigotry and hate are wrong; it's good to learn about each other's culture, because that builds a base that can ride out disturbances like the Farrakhan furor. We have good day-to-day relations so that knee-jerk responses and public self-flagellation don't become necessary. We just sigh and get back to life.

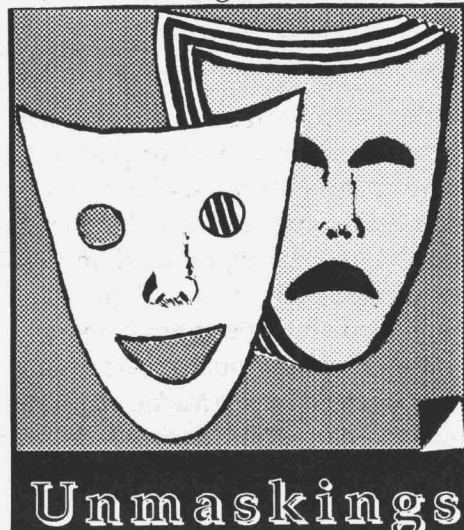
I wish I could've bottled the good feeling, the warmth, the spirit of the Purim celebration. I'd have released it into the air, and the world would be a wonderful place by now.

Jerome Johnson is Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

In the major media we weren't allowed to hear much from the very active Jewish peace movement, or other progressive Jews.

weak rationalizations of it.

Interestingly enough, this didn't disturb my friendships with people of Jewish heritage. There's been no



Ron Jacobs

While those who care wonder whether or not U.S. military action in the Balkans will really let loose, the Pentagon and its civilian counterparts are keeping themselves busy here in the Americas. While strategists and politicians argue the merits of sending Patriot missiles to Korea, hundreds of troops are settling in south of the border. These excursions are not major military operations, but more like scouting trips, except that these boy (and girl) scouts carry automatic weapons and fly helicopter gunships.

From Chiapas and southward to Colombia, the U.S. is enhancing its military presence. Soldiers are being sent to various countries in the region under the guise of humanitarianism. In Columbia, several hundred soldiers are "assisting" various Colombian government agencies in bridge and road building projects. Coincidentally, the projects are occurring in an area controlled by leftist popular forces. (At this writing,

media we weren't allowed to hear much from the very active Jewish peace movement, or other progressive Jews.

The Road (and Bridges) to Their Hearts and Minds

there have been a few reports of American involvement in Colombian military actions.) In Guatemala, a similar attempt to win the locals' hearts and minds also exists. Over 4000 troops were sent to the country in January to "assist in infrastructure projects." Interestingly enough, these troops were accompanied by several U.S. Chinook helicopter gunships, some of which ended up in the hands of Mexican army troops patrolling Chiapas in the wake of the January uprising.

Helicopters weren't the only presents the Pentagon had for the Mexican military, either. The Mexican

too. An acquaintance of mine stationed at the Air National Guard base near Burlington VT. told me he is going to Panama in May. When I asked him why, he mentioned something about building roads and bridges. When I told him Panama's elections were scheduled for May, he was quite surprised. His commander hadn't mentioned that. These elections are very important to the U.S. Like those in El Salvador, the outcome will determine the host country's near future and the role the United States will play. Should the government installed in the wake of the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama

As for why all these Latin American countries might need good roads and bridges just now, I'll leave you to draw your own conclusions.

paper, *La Prensa*, reported that among a group of diplomats who journeyed to Chiapas in January was at least one U.S. military counterintelligence officer. What his role was or is remains unclear, yet the visit of CIA Director Woolsey to the area in February leads one to conclude it wasn't just an excuse to get away from the unusually harsh DC winter.

By the time this is published, the first round of elections in El Salvador will be over. Coincidentally, the United States chose this time period to conduct joint military exercises with the Salvadoran military. Why? Well, of course, to help rebuild the nation's infrastructure. You know, bridges and roads and stuff.

Panama apparently needs bridges

be re-elected, a renegotiation of the canal treaties is virtually assured. Of course, the primary purpose of any renegotiation will be to ensure a continued U.S. role (including a military one) in the operation and control of the canal. Any other electoral outcome leaves the U.S. response up in the air.

Anyhow, about all this bridge building. It reminds me of hitchhiking through the midwestern United States in the early 1980s. Virtually every interstate overpass I passed under was being raised. I was puzzled by this phenomenon until a truck driver told me he had heard it was so that newer military equipment could be transported on the interstate in case of war. His story was confirmed by a Pentagon press release published later that summer. As for why all these Latin American countries might need good roads and bridges just now, I'll leave you to draw your own conclusions. ♦

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Who are the "Labor Party Advocates"?

Dave Zink

Like many of my union brothers and sisters, I contributed money and time in the last few election campaigns to Democrats. I doorbelled, planted signs, leafletted, and talked to a lot of folks. Why? Well, at the time it seemed like a good idea. In promising to "Put People First", Lowry and Clinton certainly seemed better than the alternatives!

But after getting into office, these people act like they've forgotten who elected them. Instead, they seem to be trying to win the confidence and hearts of the dominant corporate elite (who worked against Bill and Mike before, and probably will again).

To many, Erwin Knoll, in the March issue of the *Progressive*, seems to have hit the nail on the head: "the USA has, after China, the world's largest one-party system: a single party with a right wing that calls itself Republican, and a slightly less

care system that the insurance companies love. It will be far more expensive, create more paperwork, and be less efficient than the "single-payer" system tried and proven in Australia, Canada, and many other countries. "Managed competition" will leave the profiteers in charge and will allow them to limit our choices.

While Clinton "fast-tracked" NAFTA through congress, the legislation that would stop companies from hiring scabs to replace workers during a strike has fallen into a black hole somewhere. And the book that wowed the environmentalists turns out to have more spine than its author, Albert Gore. I'm sure you could add many more items to this sad litany.

Canadians have been enjoying their health-care system for decades. You see, in Canada, there are three major parties. The Conservatives are roughly the equivalent of the Republicans, while the Liberals resemble "our" Democrats. But Ca-

The USA is the only country in the English-speaking world that does not have a Labor Party! Today, union leaders across our country are coming out strongly in favor of building such a party.

right wing that calls itself Democratic, both committed to serving the interests of corporate capitalism".

The Clintons, for example, brought the need for health care reform to national attention. But then, when confronted with opposition from the insurance corporations, went into retreat. The result: a proposal for a Rube Goldberg "managed competition" national health

nadian politics has something we don't have: the New Democratic Party (NDP), which is a labor party. Single-payer health insurance, as well as socialized, no-fault car insurance, and many other progressive reforms were won by the working class through the NDP, not the Liberals.

The USA is the only country in the English-speaking world that does not have a Labor Party! Today, union leaders across our country are coming out strongly in favor of building such a party.

The Labor Party Advocates (LPA) is not interested in forming a fringe, extremist sect. We already have enough ineffectual "third parties" in this country. What we need to do is to appeal to the **largest** American party: the people who haven't seen enough reason to even bother with the past few elections. What we're talking about is an inclusive, non-sectarian party that will stand up to the corporations and bureaucrats and give working



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- ✓ doesn't vote or votes for the lesser of two evils?
- ✓ is tired of the Washington insiders' game?
- ✓ is sick of empty promises?
- ✓ wants to put the people's voice back in politics?



For more information about LPA and how to join, write:
Labor Party Advocates
P. O. Box 53177
Washington, D.C.
20009-3177

If so,

Labor Party Advocates (LPA) offers you a chance to help change America — to help working Americans get their country back. LPA is an organization with the purpose of educating the public about the need for a labor party in the United States. LPA serves as the organizing committee for a new labor party.

people a more effective voice. One that will raise the level of political discourse and develop the sort of broad-based appeal needed for victory. A Labor Party, if based on the unions, would from the beginning be a *mass* party. The money unions now donate to the Democratic Party would be freed up for use by our *own* party, "in-house". This would help make it a major contender. Not only would it represent workers already in unions, but would also help organize the unorganized, help create jobs to put the unemployed and homeless back to work, would fight for environmental health, and other pressing issues. Today, issues that are really important to us, in which our interests are diametrically opposed to the bosses' (like anti-scab legislation), never seem to get off the back burner.

When he captured nearly 20% of the popular vote, Ross Perot showed that the American public is looking for a real alternative. And he was just a one-man show! A labor party - of, by, and for working people, not corporate CEO's and bureaucrats - which speaks straight to the people, in our language, about our real concerns - would do much better.

Now, there are a few Democratic officeholders that have been doing a great job. The labor party need not run candidates in every race. The aim is not to hurt our allies like Patty Murray and Jolene Unsoeld that stick to their principles, but to offer a

real alternative to so-called "Democrats" that have sold us out. With a strong labor party on the scene, true pro-labor politicians will leave the Democratic Party. Those who line up with the yuppie business class "Democratic Leadership Council" will be left behind.

By joining the LPA as charter members, union locals will be in a position to send delegates to conventions which will hammer out a platform and establish a labor party as a reality.

By bringing social, economic, and environmental justice issues to center stage, this party will bring about a healthier, more optimistic political life in this country. It will not only provide an alternative, but will have a real chance of winning. An activist force for meaningful, progressive change.

The bosses have two parties - isn't it about time we had one of our own?

For more information, write to: Labor Party Advocates P.O. Box 53177 Washington, DC 20009

Tentative arrangements are being made for a public meeting in Olympia on prospects for a Labor Party sometime in late April or early May. Watch for details! ♦

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(Children, continued)

someone knew him, he/she would certainly have recognized him, and this is a small town. If we really want young people to get out of gangs, it would make more sense to support them in their effort.

School Suspensions

Another subject kids complain about is school. From the stories I hear I don't think some school officials want those students who don't have everything going for them to attend. Suspension is an over used hammer. One afternoon this winter a young man from Capital High told me he was suspended from school that day for wearing a Lakers baseball cap. Several have told me that they have been suspended for not attending school, for skipping classes from which they had asked to be removed, for smoking, for wearing gang-like clothing, for being tardy, etc. Certainly I think these may be areas of concern, but what does suspension solve, what does it say to these kids? We like you, we want you to attend school? I can't imagine.

Official Messages

I have heard several times from city officials, police and city council members that the community can't be responsible for raising people's children, that violent youth are the product of dysfunctional homes. Does that mean they are justified in turning their backs on these children, of taking what little they have left in the way of dignity and public services, of hoping they will simply fade away into the community?

In mid-January, I listened to a tape that the Masters in Teaching students from Evergreen had made of youth interviewing youth at the Olympia Center. One teenager asked another if she thought that it was true that all the kids who hung out there were losers. Without hesitation the other teenager replied "yes."

Kid Solutions

I have not found these children to be losers. I have found them to be the experts, the ones who know what is going on and what is working. I have heard them say what they need and they did so in a very clear manner. It can be broken down into the following four needs:

- First, they need a youth shelter. Haven House is not a solution for

- Third, most teenagers want to go to school. They want to be treated with respect and their need for alternative types of educational methods be understood.

- Fourth, they need to have the ability to develop and maintain peer relationships for emotional, economic, and social support. Many of them have learned that many adults are not to be trusted.

These are not unreasonable requests. They are basic needs: the need to have safe shelter; the need to be physically and emotionally safe on our streets and in our schools; and the need of a social support system. Needs that every one of us have.

Epilogue

Last fall, following the death of

"A misbehaving child is a discouraged child. The discouragement comes from beliefs and feelings of not belonging or not having significance."

Jane Nelson

many of our community's youth. Because of state requirements, it is set up to return young people to their families. This is not reasonable for those who are subject to sexual, physical, and psychological abuse in their families. A CYS worker I talked to agreed. The Washington Supreme Court has recently mandated that the state provide adequate shelter for homeless youth.

- Second, that police need to be respectful of the rights and dignity of young people.

Larry Rogers, community members met in a town meeting that was televised several times on TCTV. Over and over again one could watch people venting their fears and anger. I remember one gentleman who wanted to create adult gangs to go out and deal with youth gangs, apparently "to fight fire with fire." The police and school officials denied that Larry had any gang connections or desires for such affiliations. We were told he was just a normal, ordinary kid and that he was killed for wearing the "wrong clothing." (I think it was a red baseball cap.) He was just thirteen, still really a boy. His loss of life was mourned as is right, it was a horrible tragedy.

Soon after the town meeting, I had the opportunity to talk at length with a few teenagers who hung out at the Olympia Center Drop-In Lobby. I was sobered and delighted at the mature nature of our conversation. Not that they didn't act like kids, because they did. The discussion was interrupted on occasion with whispered secrets and giggling. What impressed me was their insight into the events in the community of the preceding weeks. They knew both Larry and the teenagers responsible for his death. They didn't need to wait until March 19th to know that the school and police officials were not being truthful about Larry's desire for gang affiliation. And most importantly, they were firm in their belief that not just one tragedy had occurred but four. What adult in this community has publically demonstrated that much compassion and understanding? Two months later we threw them out of the Community Center.

I think that if we as a community were to carefully look at all of our children, to listen and ask questions of them, we would find more that could be praised than condemned. ♦

Civil Rights of Young People

Say No to Curbside Photos

Mothers Against Police Harassment Newsletter

Seattle - Increasingly police officers are stopping young African-American men, asking them about gang involvement and taking their pictures. Those photos are going into gang-identification files. Once a young person is branded a gang member with the photo, almost any behavior by police is justified, based on the "known dangerousness" of gang members.

Mothers Against Police Harassment (MAPH) wondered what young men could do to keep out of the gang files. Was it legal to take pictures of minors not accused of any crime; could young people refuse? MAPH explored the topic with a representative of the Seattle Police Department and an attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union. Several private attorneys, as well as public defenders, also contributed to the meeting.

Although the police representatives initially tried to maintain that the curbside photo sessions were sanctioned by law, they finally had

to admit there was neither law nor department policy authorizing the photos. None of the attorneys present, however, were able to cite a law or decision making it illegal for the police to take minors' photos when not under arrest.

Based on this information, it is believed that all citizens have the right to refuse to have their photos taken, unless they are being booked, MAPH chair Harriett Walden filed a complaint when she observed photos taken. East Precinct has reported suspending the practice after the complaint.

Probable cause and reasonable suspicion were also discussed. "The police must have a good reason to stop and question you", the attorneys said. "If they don't give you a reason for stopping you, you are not required to tell them anything." It was the opinion of some of the lawyers at the meeting that young people have been telling the police too much. "You have the right to remain silent", they reminded the crowd and, in many situations, "that is what you should tell the police." ♦

Calendar**OLOC**

(Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) **gathering**

April 2nd noon - 4pm

1st UU Church 25701 14th Pl. S., Kent
Bring friends, food to share, ideas
Dorothy Mae will report on American Society on Aging Conference (emphasis on Lesbian interests)
Questions? call Kay 357-9656

The Crisis in Health Care
The Single Payer Alternative
a free public forum

Thursday, April 14th 7pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
Capital Way and 20th

Is the Clinton plan for "Managed Competition" health care the most effective for most people in the U.S.? What kinds of costs are involved? To whom? Who is likely to reap the most benefits from this plan?

What action can we take?

Participate in educating ourselves in the alternatives to the Clinton Health Care Reform proposal.

Panel discussion:

Diane Dakin, Olympia physician,
Group Health Cooperative
Marjorie Wilson, Olympia physician
Doris Wilson, Olympia physician
Alan Greenbaum, Seattle nurse
Tomas Villanueva, Boardmember
UFWWS

For further information call 866-6000 x6431.
Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Olympia Movement
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General Meeting
April 12th 7pm
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For further info contact:

Anne White Hat or Jason Wallach at
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(206) 866-6000 x6784.

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